

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the inhibition ~~or prevention~~ of a bone mineral density reduction of a mammal, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an active ingredient to a mammal, or allowing a mammal to take an effective amount of an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient is isoxanthohumol.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~prevention~~, treatment[[.]] or amelioration of osteoporosis, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an active ingredient to a mammal, or allowing a mammal to take an effective amount of an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient is isoxanthohumol.

29.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the active ingredient is an isoxanthohumol-containing isomerized hop extract.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said isomerized hop extract has been produced by isomerizing a xanthohumol-containing hop extract obtained by extraction with an ethanol solvent.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein said isomerization is carried out by heating the hop extract in alkaline water under reflux.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the active ingredient is taken in the form of food and drink.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink is a health food, a functional food, a food for specified health use, or a food for sick persons.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink is a beverage.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the beverage is a non-hop beverage.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the beverage is a tea beverage.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the beverage is a milk beverage.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the beverage is yoghurt.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink comprises isoxanthohumol in such an amount that the intake of isoxanthohumol per day per adult is 0.003 to 0.5 mg/kg-weight.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink comprises isoxanthohumol in such an amount that the intake of isoxanthohumol per time is 0.2 to 30 mg.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink is non-grain-hop fermentation-type food and drink.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the effective amount is 0.01 to 100 mg/kg-body weight adult.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said mammal is in need of an inhibition of bone mineral density reduction.